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FM AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7424  
INFO RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 1602  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1609  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1581  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1578  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1533  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1535  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1525  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1406  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1352  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
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RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1567  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1603  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1138  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0925  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 8650

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DUSHANBE 000836

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/5/2016

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SUBJECT: TAJIKISTAN: NDI IN WASHINGTON WANTS SHOWDOWN MEETING WITH  
PRESIDENT RAHMONOV

REF: A) DUSHANBE 0817 B) DUSHANBE 0804 C) DUSHANBE 0781

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard E. Hoagland, Ambassador, EXEC, Embassy  
Dushanbe.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (U) National Democratic Institute (NDI) President Ken Wallach and the Ambassador spoke by telephone May 5. Wallach thanked the Ambassador and Embassy Dushanbe for continuous support and advocacy for NDI.

¶2. (C) Wallach said he had spoken by telephone with Nurul Rakhimbekov, NDI's former Acting Director in Dushanbe, who had arrived safely back in his native Kazakhstan after having been detained for several days and then deported by Tajikistan's Ministry of Security. Wallach said Rakhimbekov maintained no entrapment had occurred, "because nothing had happened." The entire line of questioning during his several days of detention had focused solely on NDI's activities in Tajikistan, according to Rakhimbekov. When the interrogators brought in the teenaged girl to confront him, whom he had allegedly paid for a tryst, Rakhimbekov told Wallach he'd never seen her before in his life.

(COMMENT: If the interrogators brought in the alleged "victim," it would seem that the line of questioning was not solely limited to NDI's program activities. END COMMENT.)

¶3. (C) The Ambassador responded he remained totally agnostic about the charge because he did not know the facts. He suggested there is evidence, in other channels, that MOS uses under-aged prostitutes in sting operations. Further, it is understandable human nature not to be fully forthcoming if one

is caught in an embarrassing or compromising situation. Wallach said he took the point.

¶4. (C) The Ambassador averred he would be loath to see NDI closed in Tajikistan. He said he was pleased NDI in Washington was considering sending an AmCit staffer or two to maintain the office in the interim, because he would hate to see a red "closed" sign nailed to the door. Wallach concurred. But he added NDI would prefer the Government of Tajikistan simply close down NDI, if that's what it wants, instead of "playing these medieval games." The Ambassador sympathized, but pointed out governments in the region, Uzbekistan's excepted, seem to prefer harassment rather than decisive action so that they don't have to take direct responsibility for their decisions.

¶5. (C) Wallach proposed that either he or NDI Board Member former U.S. Congressman Sam Gejdenson travel to Dushanbe in late May or early June to meet with President Rahmonov to learn if he will guarantee NDI's registration and program activities, or if he wants it closed. NDI staffer Laura Jewett would arrive a few days earlier for due diligence supervision in the NDI office in Dushanbe. Until then, the NDI office will remain open, but will not conduct any program activities. NDI Washington will remain in regular contact with the local staff, and pay salaries and office rent via Western Union transfers.

¶6. (C) Wallach requested that SCA Assistant Secretary Boucher raise the on-going harassment of NDI when he meets with President Rahmonov and Foreign Minister Nazarov on May 8. Wallach said he would look to the response as an indication of how willing Rahmonov would be to make sure NDI can become registered and to guarantee the safety of the NDI staff. The Ambassador responded he would make sure A/S Boucher is fully briefed before his meetings. USAID Dushanbe and Embassy PolOff

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will also maintain regular contact with NDI's local staff.  
HOAGLAND